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SUBJECT: CANADA'S VIEWS ON DEVELOPMENT ISSUES IN THE UN
HIGH LEVEL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REF: STATE 160880

1. (SBU) Summary: The GOC shares our views on the problems of length, coherence, and balance in the draft "outcome" document, as well as our commitment to reform and opposition to creative financing measures for ODA. We differ on the goal of 0.7% of GDP, with Canada still thinking it is an important goal, albeit one they have not set a time-frame for meeting. The GOC also think references to Kyoto and Beijing are important. While expressing the hope that we can find language that reflects both our views, Greenhill said it is extremely important not to undermine and destabilize institutions in the process of reforming them. End Summary.

2. (SBU) Ambassador Wilkins met September 2 with Robert Greenhill, President of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), to stress the importance we place on the views expressed reftel and to solicit Canada's perspective. Greenhill was accompanied by Bruce Montador, Vice President for Multilateral Affairs and Stephen Wallace, Vice President for Policy. We also provided the points to Michael Small, acting Assistant Deputy Minister for Global Affairs at the Department of Foreign Affairs and to contacts at the Department of Finance.

3. (SBU) Greenhill, after conveying condolences for the damage caused by hurricane Katrina and reiterating the GOC's desire to provide assistance, said the the U.S. and GOC are reading from much the same page with regard to the outcome document, although there are some differences. We share a desire for meaningful reform and want the document to reflect the reality of what we want to build together. The Paris Declaration and work in the DAC and OECD is real. Both the U.S. and Canada commit only to what we can deliver on, and then deliver on our commitments. Canada agrees with our points on length, lack of coherence, and lack of balance in the current draft.

4. (SBU) On the substance of the draft text, Canada shares our views on front-loading assistance and the IFF. Regarding the airline tax, the text would be "improved by having it left out." It is also important to stress levers of development beyond ODA.

5. (SBU) The U.S. and Canada have taken different positions regarding the goal of committing 0.7% of GDP to assistance. Although the GOC has not specified a time frame, they still think it is an important goal but recognize that our position is not going to change. The GOC also thinks that references to Kyoto and to Beijing and the rights of women are important, that we are looking for reform within the active engagement of global agreement. Canada considers the Millenium Development Goals to be a useful and meaningful measure (Greenhill) used the poster on his wall to review them with the Ambassador. They are not the only focal point, but are critical and the specific targets for 2015 are good.

6. (SBU) Greenhill concluded by saying that, other than our views on the 0.7% target, they hope we can find language that reflects both our views. Reform is important, but it is extremely important not to undermine and destabilize the institutions. Wallace noted that there is a lot of hard work ahead, and not much time, but we need to agree on the whole before tackling specific parts.

7. (SBU) The Ambassador thanked Greenhill for his frank analysis, and reiterated the importance we place on successful negotiation of the development outcome document. Greenhill, after reviewing CIDA's overall priorities in the coming months, said he would like to spend some time with the Ambassador to discuss our mutual interests in Haiti, which he described as at a tipping point. We both want to avoid a chaotic Chavez and Cuba-linked Haiti near Florida and Greenhill would appreciate exchanging views on what we should both be doing. Note: Haiti's Ambassador to Ottawa was leaving Greenhill's office as we entered. End Note.

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WILKINS